

# **Union Township Environmental Commission**

## **Minutes of the January 16, 2007 Reorganization and Regular Meetings**

The January 16, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Union Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:16 PM.

The notice of meeting as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat satisfied the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, and was also posted in the Municipal Building and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

- I. **Roll call:** Present: Robert Nargi, Brian Kirkpatrick, Bob Beylickjian, Stephen Hurford, Alan Ford  
Absent: None  
Public: Thomas Ricker, Michelle McBride, Frank Mazza, Matt Severino, Sandy Stiger
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 12, 2006 meeting were not available for approval.
- III. **Secretary:** Alan Ford was appointed as secretary.
- IV. **Old Business:** None
- V. **Correspondence:**
  1. Letter from Bruce and Karen Harrison to the UT Mayor, Township Committee and Environmental Commission concerning the condition of the residence on the Douglass property and asking whether consideration is being given to placing property into the farmland preservation program.
  2. Letter received from Exxon Mobil concerning a draft Classification Exception Area (CEA) at the service station property at Exit 12. Based on the results of groundwater tests at the site that identify a section of the property where groundwater exceeds state standards, the CEA would restrict the use of groundwater for ten years.
  3. Copy of a memorandum from attorney J. Peter Jost to Frank Mazza, Mayor, concerning a request from Mr. Ricker to communicate with members of the UTC, UTPB and UTEC regarding the Pilot application and other matters. Mr. Nargi stated that it is not appropriate for communications, including emails, to be sent to Commission members outside of official communication channels.
  4. Announcement from the South Branch Watershed Association of the January 25, 2007 Hunterdon County Green Table, to be held at Echo Hill Environmental Center at 8 AM. The program will be a discussion of equestrian trails. UTEC members are urged to attend, as this is a topic of interest for the township.
- VI. **Old Business:** None.
- VII. **New Business:**
  1. Mr. Nargi described some of the benefits and accomplishments of the Spruce Run Initiative in obtaining funds for studies and land acquisition, and the possibilities for continuing to work on improving water quality in the watershed.
  2. We have received grant funding for the Sidney Brook study. Mr. Hurford has oversight responsibilities and will represent the UTEC on this project.
  3. Mr. Nargi discussed the need to update our open space plans to reflect possible implications of the Highlands Act. He will work to determine how this can be best accomplished.
  4. Princeton Hydro has assigned Chris Altemeara to perform plan reviews with respect to environmental issues for UTEC. We briefly discussed past process with respect to Dr. Sildorf's environmental reviews.
  5. Mr. Nargi noted that \$2500 DEP grants were available for funding various projects.

6. ANJEC Renewal: Mr. Kirkpatrick moved, Mr. Hurford seconded, and all members present voted to renew our membership in ANJEC.
7. South Branch Watershed Association: Mr. Ford moved and Mr. Hurford seconded, and all members present voted to approve membership at a cost of \$150.
8. Mr. Nargi noted that the By-laws incorrectly indicated that meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, which needs to be changed. Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Ford seconded that the By-laws be amended in Article Four, Sections 1 and 2, to reflect the fact that meetings are held on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. All members present approved.
9. Mr. Nargi noted that it would be desirable to have a UT ordinance with respect to percolation tests, including the time of year when the tests are performed. This would complement state law with provisions more specific to our locale and conditions.

VIII. **Reports of Committees:** None.

IX. **Financial Reports:** A budget for 2007 will be presented at the February meeting.

X. **Hearing of Citizens:**

1. Mayor Mazza requested that anyone who had photos of activities in the township send them to him for inclusion on the website
2. Inquiry as to whether there was an inventory of town-owned property and the permitted activities for each property.
3. Request for assistance in placing signage on roads warning of trails and equestrian cautions.
4. Inquiry as to the feasibility of having an equestrian ring at Hoffman Park.

XI. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Commission will be Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:00pm at the municipal building

XII. **Adjournment:**

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Beylickjian made the motion and Mr. Hurford seconded. All members present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Ford, Secretary